

BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals - 2014: **Lucky Draws**

New Delhi: Sunday, March 30, 2014

The Li-Ning BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals will be organized by Badminton Association of India for the very first time in India, from 18-25 May, 2014, at Siri Fort Complex, New Delhi.



Speaking at the draw ceremony this afternoon, Badminton Association of India President Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta emphasised the Association's ability to successfully organise major international events, noting "India plays host to a Superseries, a Grand Prix Gold and an International Challenge every year and all the players look forward to enjoying our hospitality and support.

"Indian players have shown the world they can challenge and beat the best. The Thomas and Uber Cup will give them an opportunity to take this challenge forward in front of the home crowd."

Dr. Gupta said "India has a flourishing Badminton community and we urge the fans to join us in this celebration of Badminton, showcasing the best players in the world – vying for the Men's and Women's Team Championships."

Meanwhile, BWF Secretary General Thomas Lund conveyed his best wishes to the hosts Badminton Association of India and all participating teams.

"The Thomas and Uber Cups are two of the most prestigious tournaments in the annals of Badminton and the honour and pride of team glory for one's country is unparalleled," Lund said. "This year the BWF is pleased to write another chapter in its history with the

hosting of the Li-Ling BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals in India for the first time ever and we are confident of a successful and enjoyable Finals.

In the Thomas Cup (the Men's World Team Badminton Championships), China is bracketed alongside Chinese Taipei, France and Russia, making the nine-time Champions favourites to top Group D.

China's women are in a near-identical group in the Uber Cup (the Women's World Team Badminton Championships). The title favourites are in the company of Chinese Taipei, England and Russia in Group A. Sixteen nations each in the men's and women's sections who qualified for the Finals were split into four groups during the draw ceremony. The two top teams from each group will progress to the elimination round.

Indonesia, which has won 13 Thomas Cup titles – the most by any nation – is in Group A, with Nigeria, Singapore and Thailand. Group B and Group C are likely to be closely fought: Group B has Denmark, England, Hong Kong and Japan while Group C has Germany, India, Korea and Malaysia.

In the Uber Cup, 2010 Champions Korea must grapple with three-time Champions Indonesia as well as Australia and Singapore. Group C could be interesting with Canada, Hong Kong, India and Thailand. Group D may also be a tight finish, featuring Denmark, Germany, Japan and Malaysia.



According to the draw, Indian Men's Team have been placed in Group C along with Malaysia, Korea and Germany with the top two Teams from each group qualifying for the quarterfinal stage.

Malaysia boasts of world number one Lee Chong Wei in singles, the Koreans and German's are known to rely on their doubles combinations in team championships.

"I guess ours is the toughest group. We have Malaysia, Korea and Germany against whom we are expecting good matches. It is going to be challenging in both singles and doubles. Our group has World no 1 player from Malaysia. But we have to also take in to consideration that our players have beaten the Korea & Germany No 1. Thus, I would say that everyone has a fair chance of qualifying," said one of India's future star B. Sai Praneeth after the draw.

While the Men have their task cut out, the Indian Women would have heaved a sigh of relief when Li Ning Marketing Director Chen Zhiben unveiled India's name in Group C of the Uber Cup draw.

Thailand, Canada and Hong Kong are the other teams in the group and India would definitely fancy advancing to the knock out stage given that the team boasts of two top-10 singles players in Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu.

Gopichand echoed the same sentiments when he said, "I think it's an even draw in both the Cups. We have good chance of qualifying to the next stages even though it is going to be tough for everyone. In the Uber Cup, Thailand is going to be challenging opponent.

India's women representative at the ceremony, Sindhu could not hide her happiness after being slotted in a better group than the men counterpart and said they would go do the distance in home conditions.

"It's a good draw for us. We will be playing in home conditions and will give our full effort. Obviously it is not going to be easy as we have Ratchanok (current World Champion Ratchanok Intanon) representing Thailand in our group and many other tough opponent. However Saina & me along with the doubles team will give our best," she added.

BWF Major Events Manager M Venupogal also present at the Conference said, "India has become a hub of Badminton in the last few years and the national federation has proved themselves to be great hosts. I am confident that the Li-Ning Thomas & Uber Cup Finals would be a big milestone for the country."

This is the first time that the BWF has done away with the qualifying stage and raised the number of teams participating in the tournament from 12 to 16. The teams qualified on the basis of their world rankings with defending champions China and hosts India getting a direct entry. This will be the first major BWF tournament where Instant Review system will also be in place.

Thomas Cup

Group A - Indonesia, Thailand, Nigeria, Singapore

Group B - Japan, Denmark, Hong Kong, England

Group C - Malaysia, Korea, Germany, **India**

Group D - China, Chinese Taipei, Russia, France

Uber Cup

Group A - China, Chinese Taipei, England, Russia

Group B - Korea, Indonesia, Australia, Singapore

Group C - Thailand, **India**, Canada, Hong Kong

Group D - Japan, Denmark, Malaysia, Germany





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THOMAS CUP - DRAW

	A	B	C	D
1	INDONESIA	JAPAN	MALAYSIA	CHINA
2	THAILAND	DENMARK	KOREA	CHINESE TAIPEI
3	NIGERIA	HONG KONG	GERMANY	RUSSIA
4	SINGAPORE	ENGLAND	INDIA	FRANCE



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UBER CUP - DRAW

	A	B	C	D
1	CHINA	KOREA	THAILAND	JAPAN
2	CHINESE TAIPEI	INDONESIA	INDIA	DENMARK
3	ENGLAND	AUSTRALIA	CANADA	MALAYSIA
4	RUSSIA	SINGAPORE	HONG KONG	GERMANY

(Organised By: Badminton Association of India)



